WE PREDICT A 'ROBO' FLOP

NEW "ROBOCOP" TOO MECHANICAL PAGE 16

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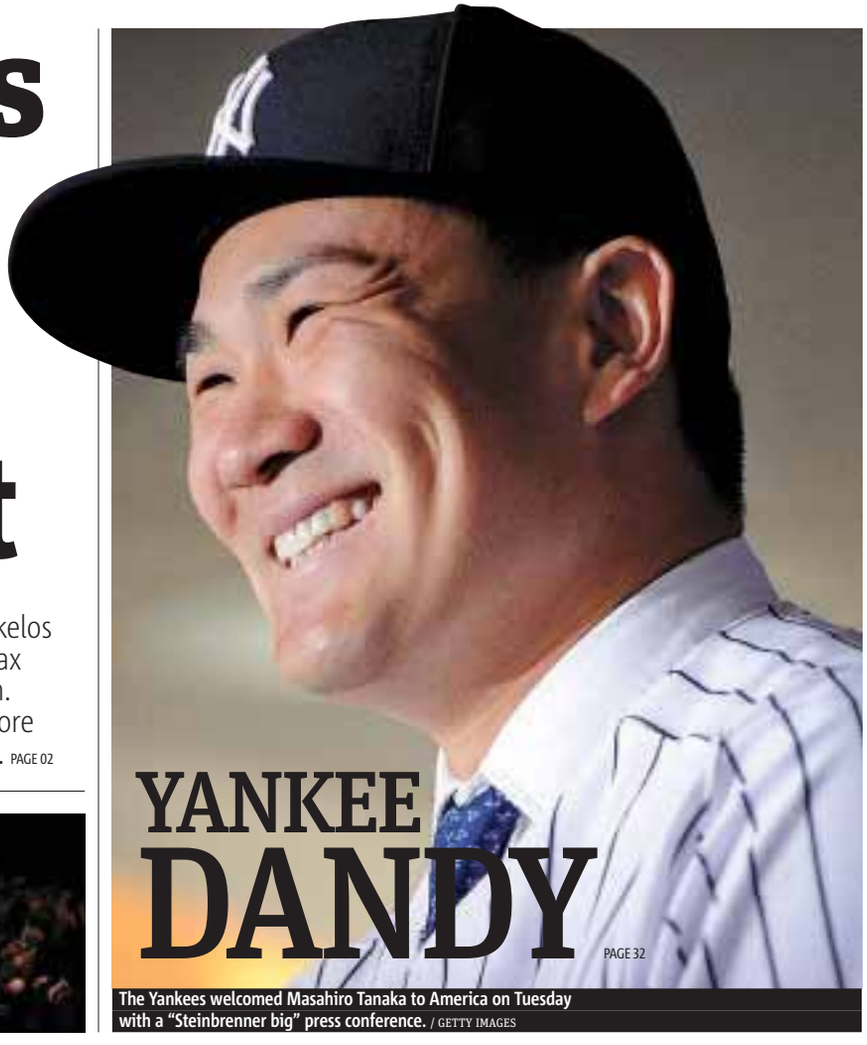
Battle lines drawn in Albany pre-K fight

Fight brewing. Republican Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos said that he wouldn't allow a vote on the mayor's plan to tax wealthy residents to help pay for universal prekindergarten. **Troops.** Mayor Bill de Blasio and Rev. Al Sharpton rallied more than 200 clergy to come to the defense of his signature plan. PAGE 02

NYFW: Donna Karan hits a big anniversary

PAGES 20-21



YANKEE DANDY

PAGE 32

The Yankees welcomed Masahiro Tanaka to America on Tuesday with a "Steinbrenner big" press conference. / GETTY IMAGES

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—Veronica Singh, MSED,
Dual Childhood / Special Education, '13

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1 NEWS

Today's tweet

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@JoelakaMaG

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: Shirley Temple's most iconic musical performances (Roundup)'

2 'VIDEO: Cuddly Vermont Teddy Bear will scare your sweetheart'

3 'VIDEO: Rock climber ascends 1,500-foot wall without gear'

De Blasio, allies dig in heels on pre-K

Education. The mayor and Rev. Al Sharpton rallied clergy after Dean Skelos said he would not allow a vote on the plan.

Mayor Bill de Blasio rebuked murmurings from Albany that his administration's plan for universal prekindergarten would not go to a vote in the state senate.

De Blasio gave an impassioned address to a crowd of more than 200 local pastors on Tuesday at Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn. Joined by the Rev. Al Sharpton and first lady Chirlane McCray, the mayor rallied the clergy to promote the city's plan — which relies on Albany granting the city the ability to hike taxes on its wealthiest citizens.

Sharpton and de Blasio pleaded with clergy to help sway state lawmakers towards supporting the administration's plan.

"Let's not sugarcoat it. They can't accept the notion that New York City will be treated like a colony that doesn't even get to decide its own future," de Blasio said.

De Blasio went on to describe Senate Republican Majority Leader Dean Skelos' refusal to allow a vote as a blatant denial of rights to New Yorkers.

"The people of this city demand something for our children, and we are told we don't even get a vote in Albany, as if our children don't matter," De Blasio said. The audience seemed to need little convincing. Sharpton led the room in a chant in the middle of de Blasio's speech, shouting: "We want a vote!"

CHESTER JESUS SORIA
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Mayor Bill de Blasio and Rev. Al Sharpton rallied clergy across NYC to promote his prekindergarten plan. / OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Not everyone's happy

Skelos skeptical

Shortly before de Blasio's first major address since his inauguration, Senate Republican Majority Leader Dean Skelos rejected de Blasio's pitch.

A spokesman for Skelos declined to comment on de Blasio's response on Tuesday.

No vote

"The last thing we need is to see high earners leave New York state, because then we lose their tax dollars."

Dean Skelos

The project was carried out by the Italian and U.S. governments. / GETTY IMAGES

Global. Police in New York and Italy crack major mafia drug ring

Police in New York and Italy broke up a mafia drug ring on Tuesday, arresting 24 people accused of plotting to move hundreds of millions of dollars in drugs between South America, Italy and the United States.

The sting operation, involving undercover agents and wire taps, offered evidence that the Calabria-based 'Ndrangheta was trying to forge ties with the Gambinos, a New York mob family.

FBI and Italian agents carried out Operation New Bridge in Brooklyn and in Italy, officials said.

REUTERS

Weather

Riverside Park / GETTY IMAGES

More slushy snow coming

A slushy winter storm could bring as much as 8 inches of snow to New York City this week.

The National Weather Service predicts snow will begin to fall late Wednesday, accumulating around 4 inches before developing into rain midday Thursday.

The rain is expected to change back into snow before the storm ends.

Between 6 and 8 inches are expected in all, but the exact track and intensity of the storm was still uncertain Tuesday afternoon.

"We're projecting more rain, and that cuts back on accumulations," National Weather Service meteorologist Michael Silva said.

The weather service warned that the slushy snow will make travel treacherous Thursday.

A winter storm watch has been issued from late Wednesday through Thursday.

Temperatures are expected to be in the lower 30s during the storm. ANNA SANDERS

Transit

Signal issues cause of train shutdowns

Problems at the Times Square signal relay room led to partial shutdowns of the 1, 2 and 3 trains for several hours Tuesday. the MTA said.

Normal service resumed with delays by the evening commute.

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NYPD makes arrest in murder of 50 Cent's pal

Music. The former G-Unit rapper was killed in a shooting in early January.

Green / @50CENT, INSTAGRAM

Police arrested and charged a man in connection to the shooting death of a Queens man associated with rapper 50 Cent.

Jamal Scott, 35, is suspected of murdering Jamal Green and shooting three others on Jan. 3 as they drove through Jamaica, Queens.

Police have yet to apprehend a second suspected shooter.

Police are holding Scott for arraignment in Queens, prosecutors said.

Investigators said that Green was in an SUV driving eastbound on 134th Avenue when the car pulled up to a stop sign. Green was sitting in the front seat of the vehicle when Scott and the second suspect are reported as having walked up to the stop on foot and opened fire on the SUV around 4:10 p.m., hitting Green in the chest.

The three other passengers were wounded but survived the shooting. Green was pronounced dead at the scene.

Performing with the stage name Mazaradi Fox, Green was a former member of the rap group G-Unit made famous by rapper 50 Cent.

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Hoffman memorialized in art mural

A mural of the late actor Philip Seymour Hoffman popped up overnight in the East Village more than a week after his death. The work, painted by artist Michael DeNicola, is located on First Street between First and Second avenues. Hoffman died of a reported drug overdose on Feb. 2.

AARON ADLER, METRO

Gun violence

Man shot while being robbed of his jacket in the Bronx

An 18-year-old man was shot while being robbed of his jacket in the Bronx earlier this month, police said.

The suspect approached the victim near 2705 Morris Ave. about 8 p.m. on Feb. 4, police said. The robber demanded property, then shot the victim once in the buttocks and fled with his jacket.

The victim was treated at a local hospital and released.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers hotline at 800-577-TIPS.

The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website or texting their tips to 274637(CRIMES) then entering TIP577.

LAURA SHIN

The posters point riders to the best place to stand on the L line to transfer to other trains. / EFFICIENT PASSENGER PROJECT

Straphangers on L train get help from poster project

Choice spot. The illegal posters show the best locations to transfer to reach other trains.

Straphangers along the L line might have noticed some new signs on the subway platform.

While some New Yorkers have their commutes down to a science, learning the choice spots for transfers and disembarkment by rote, some passengers on the L train now have it a little easier thanks to a helpful, even if illegal, project.

The Efficient Passenger Project launched on Feb. 9 after installing discreet signage between the Eighth Avenue and the Myrtle-Wyckoff stops along the L line.

The small posters currently point riders to the best spot to stand at if they're transferring to the 4, 5 or 6 train at Union Square.

More signs are to come highlighting the best place to stand to transfer to other trains on the L line, according to the EPP's Twitter feed.

But the MTA is already working to take the unsanctioned signs down. MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz cautioned that too many riders congregating around the highlighted spots might actually make things harder for commuters.

"These signs have the potential to cause crowding conditions in certain platform areas and will create uneven loading in that some train cars will be overcrowded while others will be under-utilized," Ortiz said.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA
chester.soria@metro.us

More coming

By early Tuesday afternoon, the EPP said that it had only been tipped off to the signs being removed at the Bedford Avenue station. That won't stop the EPP, though.

- "We're working overtime to make sure we get our replacement up soon," wrote an EPP representative. "The success of the project depends on it!"

On the subway

Woman takes picture of suspected 7 train flasher

A woman snapped a picture of a suspected subway flasher on a Queens-bound train last week, police said.

The man allegedly exposed himself to the 27-year-old woman on a 7 train near the Junction Boulevard/Roosevelt Avenue station in Corona about 4:40 p.m. on Feb. 2. The woman took a picture of the suspect with her phone before he fled.

ANNA SANDERS

The suspect / NYPD

Have a tip?

Police ask anyone with about the incident to:

- **Call** the Crime Stoppers hotline at 800-577-TIPS.
- **Submit a tip online** at NYPDCrimeStoppers.com
- **Text** 274637 (CRIMES), then enter TIP577.

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The posters were hung up in subway stations throughout the city. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Artist aims to find a missed connection

See more at www.metro.us

Underground. The Chilean plastered posters at various subway stops to find a man she saw on her way home.

Sketchy details

Vila described her prince charming as 6-foot-1 with a long face and hired a forensic artist in Chile to draw a composite sketch of him; she wanted to describe him in Spanish.

- He has long wavy hair in the drawing and wears a top hat.
- "That picture is 80 percent him," she said.
- Vila wrote that when she saw him, the man wore yellow pants with a denim jacket and carried a newspaper.

Artist Maria Luisa Portuondo Vila believes her love is somewhere in the city, and she wants New Yorkers to help find him.

Now, Vila is trying to find him by plastering fliers in subway stations all around the city looking for her missed connection. "Pay attention NY! This is about my heart," Vila wrote on the posters. Vila is an intern at the Textile Arts Center in the West Village and arrived from Santiago, Chile, in November. She only has until March to find him — after that, she will return to Chile.

Vila, 30, said she spotted her mystery man on the A train in November and said the two of them glanced at each other a few times. "He was so handsome," she said.

"He caught my attention because we exchanged glances, and in New York, that's so difficult. In Chile everyone looks at you, but here, no. Nobody looks at you. So we looked at each other and I felt good."

Now or never

"I thought, now is my time in New York — now or never. I'm going to start this art project and capture this feeling and look for him and find him."
Maria Luisa Portuondo Vila

She wanted to give him something, so she found a picture she drew of a tree in her bag.

She scrawled her e-mail on it and was about to give it to him, but in a sad twist of fate, a crowd of people flooded the subway car as Vila got off at 14th Street and the man stayed on the train.

"I lost him and it was so bad and I was so frustrated," she said.

Vila said she thought about how she could reach out to him and decided to turn her quest into an art project called "Missing Love."

Vila created the hashtag #missinglove and begged Twitter users to help her find her man and send photos of people who fit his description.

She said if she meets him, she simply wants to give him the picture. She laughed off the idea of starting a relationship with him.

"No, I am going back to Santiago in March," Vila said. "I don't want to give him any more trouble, you know. I think in some ways he's my victim because I'm doing all of this and he doesn't know me."

ANDREA PARK
andrea.park@metro.us

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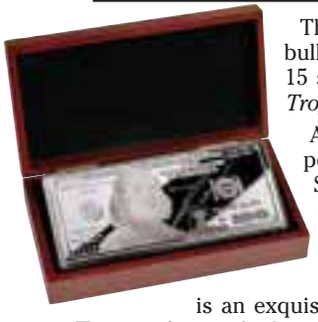

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‘Barack and Francois’ take center stage at White House fete

Rolling solo. Hollande showed up “tout seul,” or all alone, which was not publicly discussed.

There were no “freedom fries” or any other remembrances from strained Franco-American ties in the past. Instead, it was dry-aged beef and plenty of bonhomie as President Barack Obama gave a lavish welcome to French President Francois Hollande.

Obama went out of his way to welcome Hollande at the White House on Tuesday, saying a few words in passable French, teasing the Frenchman for his formality and toying with the notion that U.S. ties with France are as close as they are with old ally Britain.

“It is always a pleasure to host Francois,” Obama said at a joint news conference after wishing reporters a “bon apres-midi,” which is French for good afternoon.

At a G8 summit at Camp David two years ago, Obama noted with a smile, “I was trying to make the summit casual, and Francois in true French style showed up in a necktie. We tried to get him to take it off.”

Hollande was equally effusive, referring to “Mr. President, dear Barack.”

The chumminess was not unexpected coming from two leaders who tend to see issues from the same leftward view. Obama went so far as to say that the U.S.-French alliance dating back more than two centuries, “has never been stronger.”

Still, it was a noted difference from a decade ago when the Iraq war strained relations between the two countries, a time when “freedom fries” replaced French fries in some American eateries.

The menu for the state dinner featuring 350 guests in a heated tent on the White House South Lawn on Tuesday night included dry-aged rib eye beef and American wines. **REUTERS**

Quoted

“Let’s just say that we’ve come a long way from ‘freedom fries.’”

Senior Obama administration official

Shirley Temple dies at 85

Shirley Temple Black, who lifted America’s spirits as a bright-eyed, dimpled child movie star during the Great Depression and forged a second career as a U.S. diplomat, died late on Monday night at the age of 85. Black ‘peacefully passed away’ at her Woodside, Calif., home from natural causes at 10:57 p.m. local time, surrounded by her family and caregivers, her family said in a statement on Tuesday. **REUTERS** / GETTY IMAGES

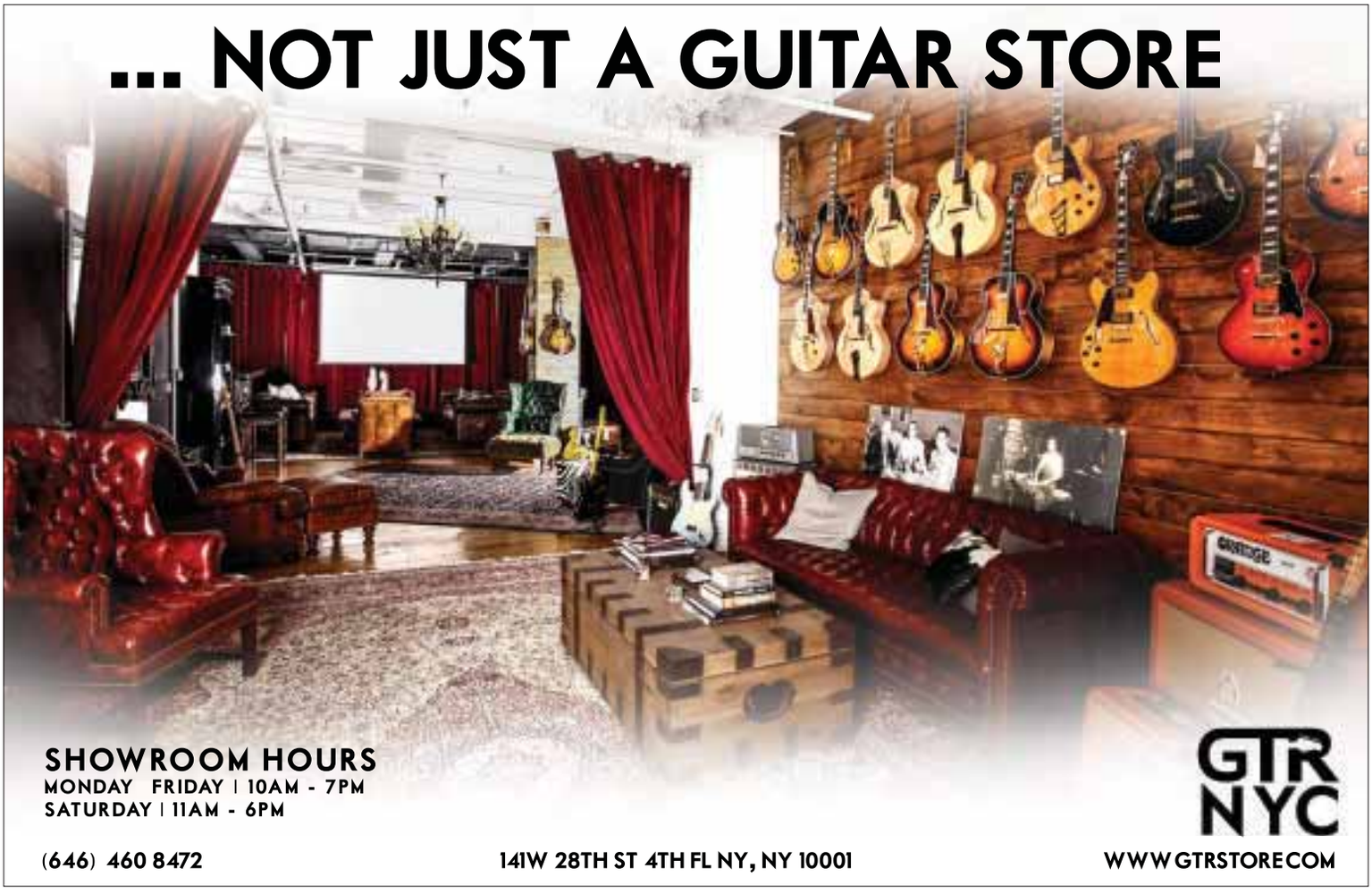
Borrowing power

House passes one-year ‘clean’ debt limit increase

The House of Representatives, by a narrow margin, on Tuesday passed clean legislation raising the government’s borrowing authority for one year in order to avoid a default that was looming at the end of this month.

By a vote of 221-201, the House passed the bill, adhering to President Barack Obama’s demand that it have no unrelated conditions attached. With House passage, the bill now goes to the Senate, where debate could begin as early as Wednesday.

Only 28 of the House’s 232 Republicans voted for the measure. Still, the move marked a shift from the confrontational fiscal tactics House Republicans have used in the past three years. **REUTERS**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FBI offers reward for tips on lasers shone into cockpits

Federal offense. Pointing a laser at an aircraft is punishable by up to five years in prison.

Shining lasers into a cockpit is a dangerous prank — and one that the FBI says is on the rise. / COLOURBOX

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, in a bid to crack down on an airline safety threat, said on Tuesday it would begin offering a reward of up to $10,000 for tips that lead to the arrest of anyone who shines a laser into a cockpit.

The number of cases of people shining lasers into cockpits, which can temporarily blind pilots and endanger passengers, has been on the rise since the FBI began tracking them in 2005, with 3,960 such incidents reported in 2013.

"Aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft is a serious matter and a violation of federal law," said Ron Hosko, assistant director of the FBI's criminal investigative division.

"This is a criminal act with potentially deadly repercussions." REUTERS

Laser pointer / GETTY IMAGES

Test program

60

The FBI is offering rewards for 60 days in a test program at 12 of its field offices where incidents are prevalent including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Civil rights. AG says voting bans should be lifted for ex-felons

U.S. states should repeal laws that restrict for life the voting rights of ex-felons because the laws prevent former prison inmates from successfully re-entering society, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said on Tuesday in the latest Obama administration push on civil rights.

In a speech at Georgetown University Law Center, Holder said that former prisoners whose rights are restored are less likely to find themselves in court again. According to a preliminary 2011 study from Florida that he cited, the recidivism rate was 11 percent for ex-felons whose civil rights were restored there, compared to 33 percent for ex-felons overall. REUTERS

Militant threat

US condemns Afghan decision to go ahead with detainee release

U.S. forces in Afghanistan on Tuesday condemned a decision by the Afghan government to proceed with plans to release additional detainees that the United States believes pose a continuing militant threat.

The detainees have become one more issue fueling tension in U.S.-Afghan ties, as foreign troops present in Afghanistan since 2001 steadily withdraw. REUTERS

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RD .75ct tw.
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BUS

Accused shooter testifies in Fla. loud music murder trial

Scene. The incident occurred at a gas station, where Dunn stopped to buy wine.

A middle-aged software engineer accused in the 2012 shooting death of a teenager during an argument over loud rap music in Jacksonville, Fla., testified on Tuesday that he thought he was "going to be killed" and acted in self-defense.

"I was in fear of my life and I was probably stunned," said Michael Dunn, 47, in his first day on the witness stand, where he broke down in tears several times.

Dunn is being tried in state court on one count of first-degree murder, three counts of attempted first-degree murder and one count of firing a deadly missile into an occupied vehicle tied to the November 2012 shooting that killed 17-year-old Jordan Davis.

"I thought I was going to be killed," he said.

Dunn choked up during the questioning on Tuesday. He said the music from a red Dodge Durango parked at the same gas station grew "really loud" after his fiancee went into the store.

"I said, 'Can you turn that down please?'" he testified. "They turned it off. I said thank you."

But Dunn said the young men in the Durango soon began using expletives and then turned the volume back up.

"I start hearing things like f— him and f— that," he said. "It was mean-spirited." REUTERS

Opening statement

Dunn's attorney, Cory Strolla, told the jury in his opening statement that Dunn opened fire only after seeing what looked like the barrel of a gun or a lead pipe through the Durango's back passenger window and that he was acting in self-defense.

Quoted

"My review mirror was shaking, my eardrums were vibrating. It was ridiculously loud." Dunn

Offline

Study shows fewer number of new US tech companies

Sluggish growth among young technology firms could bode trouble for the U.S. economy, according to a new report from the Kauffman Foundation.

The number of technology firms aged five years or younger — key drivers of job creation — has fallen to below 80,000, down from a high of 113,000 in 2001, according to the report.

Factors that could help account for the drop include a tendency of older technology companies to acquire increasingly younger technology firms, taking them out of the pool of young companies prematurely, said report co-author Ian Hathaway in a telephone interview.

Focus on highly successful young technology companies such Pinterest and Twitter draws attention away from the fact that the overall pipeline is thinner than previously, said Hathaway, research director at Engine, a policy group funded by start-ups. REUTERS

Pinterest is a virtual bulletin board showcasing interests. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"It's just not as dynamic as it used to be," he said. "We would expect that to mean lower productivity."
Ian Hathaway
report co-author in a telephone interview.

'Acquihire'

$1B

When Facebook acquired Instagram in 2012 for $1 billion, it was just two years old. Separately, many old-line Silicon Valley companies buy start-ups simply to acquire their talented engineers in a phenomenon that has become known as the "acquihire."

See more at www.metro.us

Britain to ban smoking in cars carrying children

Smoking will soon be banned in cars carrying children in Britain, the government said on Tuesday, under new laws aimed at reducing the effects of second-hand smoke on young people. The move comes after lobbying from health campaigners and the opposition Labour party, who cited research showing that smoking in cars exposed children to more concentrated smoke and caused health problems. The government confirmed it would seek to implement a ban before an election in May next year, after lawmakers voted on Monday to give ministers the power to bring in the measure. The ban has been criticized by some parliamentarians and lobbyists as an intrusion on individual freedoms. **REUTERS** / GETTY IMAGES

Scientists find gene linking brain's gray matter to intelligence

Hercule Poirot was right. The outer layer of the brain plays a key role in intellectual ability.

Researchers have found a gene linking intelligence to the thickness of so-called "gray matter" in the brain, and say their discovery could help scientists understand how and why some people have learning difficulties.

An international team of scientists analyzed DNA samples and brain scans from more than 1,500 healthy 14-year-olds and gave them a series of tests to establish their verbal and non-verbal intelligence.

The researchers looked at the cerebral cortex — the outermost layer of the brain that is also known as "gray matter" and plays a key role in memory, attention, perceptual awareness, thought, language and consciousness. They then analyzed more than 54,000 genetic variants possibly involved in brain development and found that, on average, teenagers with a particular gene variant had a thinner cortex in the left half of their brains and were the ones who performed less well on the intelligence tests. **REUTERS**

Significance

The findings, published on Tuesday in the journal Molecular Psychiatry, could help scientists gain more insight into the biological mechanisms underlying several psychiatric disorders, such as schizophrenia and autism, since people with these conditions often have impaired cognitive ability.

- The genetic variation that the team found affects a gene known as NPTN, which encodes a protein acting on neuronal synapses and therefore affects how brain cells communicate.

Scores dead

Military plane crashes in Algeria

A military transport plane carrying relatives of members of the armed forces crashed in eastern Algeria on Tuesday, killing 77 people, the private Ennahar TV station reported, citing "informed sources." The plane crashed in a mountainous area in the Oum El Bouaghi province, about 300 miles from the capital Algiers, the report said.

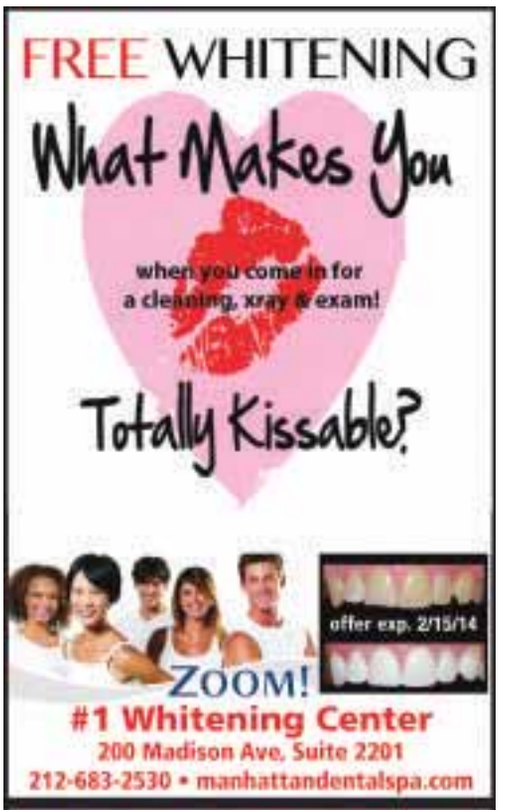
Death toll

77

People killed in the crash

A senior military official told the official APS news agency that 99 passengers and four crew members had been on board the plane, but that the death toll was "yet to be determined."

Col. Lahmadi Bouguern also said that bad weather and gusty winds were probably the cause of the crash. **REUTERS**



Winter Olympics.
White comes up empty as I-Pod rocks gold

Medal count

	G	S	B	T
1. Norway	4	3	4	11
2. Canada	4	3	2	9
3. Holland	3	2	3	8
4. USA	2	1	4	7
5. Russia	1	3	3	7
6. Germany	4	1	0	5
7. Austria	1	3	0	4
8. Sweden	0	3	1	4
9. France	1	0	2	3
10. Czech	0	2	1	3

1 **Iouri Podladtchikov** of Switzerland pulled off a win in men's snowboard halfpipe that was so surprising, even he looked shocked on the medal stand. Meanwhile, two-time reigning Olympic champion **Shaun White** (fourth) crashed in his first run and looked shaky in his second in a slushy, crash-filled event.

2 American **Erin Hamlin** won the first luge singles medal — men or women — in the history of the U.S. with a bronze medal finish.

3 Speaking of history, Germany's **Carina Vogt** broke down in tears after winning the first gold in the Olympic debut of women's ski jumping.

4 Norway continued its storied tradition in cross country skiing with a gold medal for **Ola Vigen Hattestad** in the men's free sprint.

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Bye-bye, Bieber?

There's a petition floating around the Internet right now in which people are calling for Justin Bieber's deportation back to Canada. It's enough people that I feel pretty confident saying that America seems to be in Bieber Fever remission. Yes, some of us will forever bear scars — much like carrying the pockmarks of cystic teen acne long into adulthood — but the prognosis is good. We're all expected to make a full recovery.

But these petitioners might just get their wish. New surveillance video has surfaced that apparently proves Bieber's guilt in the egging of his neighbor's house last month. (I remember kids egging houses when I was maybe 13 years old. Welcome to the eighth grade, Bieber.)

According to immigration law, if one is convicted of a crime of "moral turpitude," that's reason enough to pull their green card and send them packing from whence they came.

"Moral turpitude" is a crime involving "malicious destruction of property." I'm no lawyer, but splattering someone's home with egg yolks in a fit of adolescent rage sounds like malicious destruction to me.

In Bieber's case, the green card is actually an O-1 Work Permit, a special certificate awarded to foreigners with "extraordinary abilities" so that they can bring those abilities stateside. In Justin's case, "extraordinary d—baggery."

Ah well, if some guy having to to power wash omelet ingredients off his house is all it takes to boot the Biebs, I'm OK with that. You gotta crack a few eggs to deport a giant egghead, as the saying goes.

THE WORD

Alexandra Cavallo takes on the world of gossip.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
@AlexCavallo
alexandra.cavallo@metro.us

Go home. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Shia LaBeouf gets lost in airport translation

In a scene plagiarized straight out of the script of the 2000 Ashton Kutcher flick "Dude, Where's My Car?" Shia LaBeouf, a guy who is not famous anymore (as he keeps reminding us) could not find his ride at LAX yesterday.

The "Nymphomaniac" actor (please note that while he is an actor, he is in no way famous anymore) had reportedly just gotten home from a press junket in Germany. When he arrived, dude couldn't find his car. (Specifically, dude couldn't find his limo driver.)

TMZ reports that a paparazzo (probably hoping to spot someone famous, but settling for LaBeouf who, if I failed to mention earlier, is not famous anymore) caught the "Even Stevens" star wandering around the airport in search of his driver. Unfortunately, there's no existing script (that I know of) or anything detailing what one is to do in case of losing one's driver in an airport, sohe was understandably at a loss. The best he could have done was pull a page from "The Terminal" and made a nice home for himself adjacent to a Jamba Juice.

The driver eventually found LaBeouf and escorted him to his car and, presumably, home. Thank God, because we all know Shia LaBeouf is the type of guy who couldn't find his way out of a paper bag.

LEBEOUF GETS LOST SOMETIMES, JUST LIKE US NORMAL FOLK.

Spotted. Front row at New York Fashion Week

1 **Rita Ora, Katie Holmes, Trudie Styler** and **Hugh Jackman** were at Donna Karan's 30th anniversary show on Monday.

2 **Andre Leon Talley** was fabulous in fur at Vera Wang on Tuesday.

3 **Angel Haze** got serious at 3.1 Phillip Lim on Monday.

4 **Anna Kendrick** struck a pose at Tory Burch on Tuesday morning.

5 **Olivia Palermo** was all smiles at Dennis Basso on Monday. **GETTY IMAGES**

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jimmy Kimmel isn't letting his feud with Matt Damon go, Alec Baldwin is freaking out about the weather, Mandy Moore is feeling a bit elderly and Judd Apatow is tired of Olympics spoilers.

@jimmykimmel: It's so cute Matt Damon thinks anybody cares what he has to say

@ABFalecbaldwin: Madre de Dios, it's snowing here in Madrid!!

@TheMandyMoore: True friendship= not balking at the idea of eating dinner at 5pm.

@JuddApatow: I keep taping the Olympics and then accidentally seeing who won on the Internet. Who has the time to see anything when it happens?

Based on WHAT?

Why is there a new movie starring toy building blocks? Because it's been done before with board games and roller coasters. In honor of "The Lego Movie," we found films adapted from odd sources.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Title | **The result**

'Alice's Restaurant'

Year: 1969
Original medium: Pop song

An 18-minute epic by Arlo Guthrie tells about him almost being drafted. Director Arthur Penn's film fills in what you didn't need to know and makes serious what once was funny. (See also: Sam Peckinpah's "Convoy" and the film of "You Light Up My Life.")

'The Gong Show Movie'

Year: 1980
Original medium: Game show

Left out of the movie of Chuck Barris' "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind" is a factoid only slightly less nuts than Barris' claim that he was an assassin: The "Gong Show" host co-wrote, directed and starred in this spinoff, where he's beset by crazy would-be contestants.

'Clue'

Year: 1985
Original medium: Board game

A board game of whodunit became an overachieving movie with three different endings. A game cast (among the best being Tim Curry and Michael McKean) run about a manse, doing pratfalls and making screwball chatter. Best of all, it paved the way for "Battleship."

Title | **The result**

'Mars Attacks!'

Year: 1996
Original medium: Trading cards

Tim Burton's star-studded invasion pic was based on a series of 1962 Topps cards. They told a story, kind of: Each card had a major event, and you put the story together piecemeal, almost certainly out of order. All Burton did was giddily wipe out celebrities.

The 'Pirates of the Caribbean' saga

Years: 2003-present
Original medium: Theme park ride

The Captain Jack-led series is currently about 11 hours long and counting, with a fifth installment crashing next year. Credit where credit's due: That's a lot of plotting and work considering the base was a five-minute ride with no discernible narrative.

'He's Just Not That Into You'

Year: 2009
Original medium: Self-help book

Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo hit pay dirt with their book, which told women raised on the comforting lies of romantic comedy films the hard truths about love. So of course it was made into a romantic comedy film packed with comforting lies.

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Too much man, not enough machine

"The Killing"'s Joel Kinnaman is freaked to be in Peter Weller's suit in the redo of "RoboCop." / COLUMBIA PICTURES

See more at www.metro.us

Redo. The new "RoboCop" is wise enough to not repeat the original, but dumb about much else.

With remakes, there typically come those times when the new film has to do its own version of the first picture's big set pieces and moments. Whether it flubs them or not, the viewer is invariably forced to recall the previous entity, perhaps even fondly.

The 1987 Paul Verhoeven original "RoboCop" is practically perfect, so it wouldn't behoove the new redo to resemble it at all. For whatever it's worth, it almost doesn't. It knows it can't beat the original, so it creates an entirely original story that's also about an android cop running amok in a dystopian (or dystopian-er) Detroit under the sway of an evil corporation.

The differences can be huge. Verhoeven's hard-R-rating has been replaced with a hard-cut PG-13. Doomed officer Murphy (Joel Kinnaman) isn't a mysterious newbie given a robotic personality to match his new body. He remains very much cognizant and present, as all that's left of him — after a bomb explosion, not an epic gun-down by creeps — is a head, lungs and his right hand.

Review

'RoboCop'

Director: Jose Padilha

Stars: Joel Kinnaman, Gary Oldman

Rating: PG-13

This time, too, the military are involved, as the main plot turns on a Halliburton-esque company (run by an only semi-gleeful Michael Keaton) trying to sneak entirely robotic drones into America's crime-ridden streets, past the obstructions of pesky liberals.

It's here that you can feel free to compare the two movies, and note how badly and inelegantly this one handles its political edge. The original hated companies, too — and advertising, and American excess, and just about everything — but it was much more efficient, witty and sly. Here, it's just knee-jerk anti-corporatism and jokes about Fox News, as if no one had ever thought of that before.

It's a shame because, as belabored as the film can be about filing its points, this "RoboCop" does have one fairly intriguing "RoboCop" fan fiction idea: What if Murphy was self-aware? Here the scientists — led by Gary Oldman, in decent mode — have to grapple with how to get the best results out of a flesh-and-blood guy, one who greets the news of his strange salvation by asking for euthanasia.

It eventually finds ways to avoid dealing with this — some stupid, one or two actually clever — but for a while it seems the new "RoboCop" might be more man than remake machine itself. And then comes the clangy, nonsensical action and one seriously stupid ending, and sure enough one longs to re-watch a henchman getting submerged in acid.

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This Valentine's Day, stream a bad relationship movie

Love hurts. Watch Daniel Craig play Francis Bacon's unhappy lover on our site.

You will read a lot before Valentine's Day about warm movies that make you happy about love and about maybe finding your perfect match. But perhaps you don't like the holiday. If that's the case, may we recommend "Love is the Devil: Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon"? It's not so much a depiction of the controversial artist as one of the bleakest views of a bad relationship out there.

Bacon, as his dark figurative paintings suggest, was not a nice man. The real-life jerk is fully on display in this biopic. Derek Jacobi is a sneering scoundrel who surrounds himself with grotesques (including Tilda Swinton) about as unpleasant as he. ("Champagne for my real friends, and real pain for my sham friends," he at one points quips.) Instead of punishing a thief who breaks into his loft, Bacon offers him his bed. This is the nicest thing he does in the picture.

The main draw of this film, made in 1998, is this: The thief is played by a young Daniel Craig. Craig once stated that he wouldn't mind seeing James Bond take on a male lover. (He even made a crack to flamboyant "Skyfall" villain Javier Bardem about a possible not-so-hetero history, resulting in some "damage control" by conservative columnists.) Here, he jumps into the sack with Derek Jacobi, then hangs around so that the two can have a terrible relationship.

If the nasty words regularly swapped by Jacobi and Craig aren't nasty enough, director John Maybury makes the experience visually sickly as well. He shoots in a grimy palette, sometimes through martini glasses. Francis Bacon's home is a disheveled purgatory from which Craig — and the viewer — can't wait to escape.

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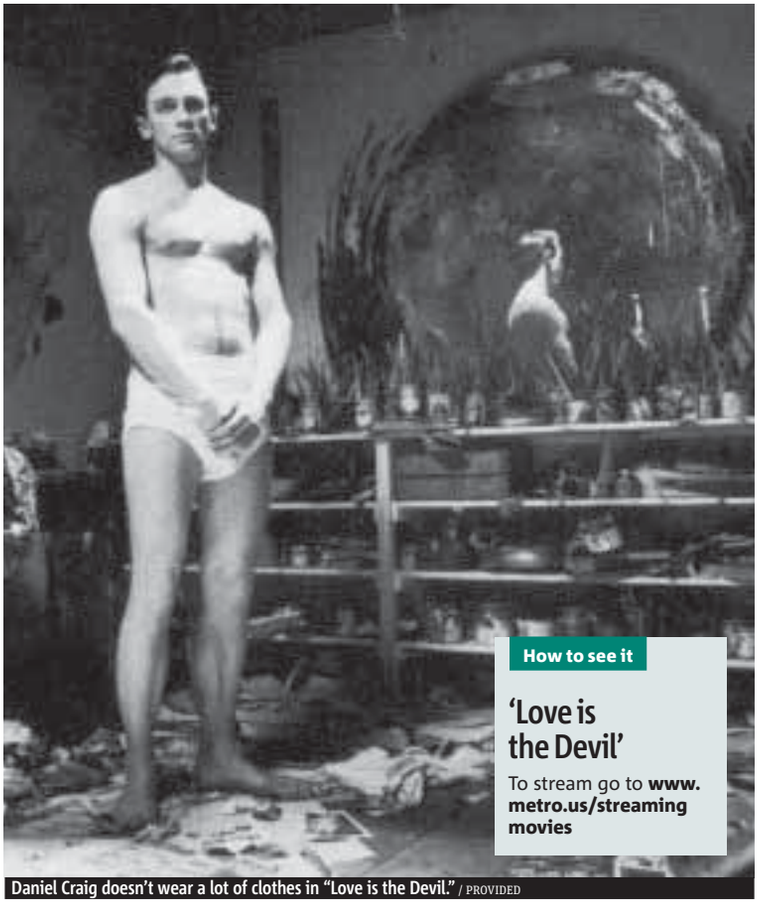

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Daniel Craig doesn't wear a lot of clothes in "Love is the Devil." / PROVIDED

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KODALINE

These charming Irish lads may just conquer America.

'IN A PERFECT WORLD'

As an unsigned band, Kodaline's "Give Me a Minute" topped the Irish singles chart; the track "All I Want" from their debut, "In a Perfect World," has over 6 million hits on YouTube; and the indie/folk four-piece are getting airplay on "Grey's Anatomy." Anthemic like Coldplay and melancholy like fellow countrymen The Script, Kodaline are a band for weepers: Their tunes befit lonely train journeys of emotional, romantic self-reflection.

It's fair to say that "In a Perfect World" is a sad record. Do you ever see yourselves writing a cheerier album?
Mark Prendergrast (guitar): I can't see us writing a bright album.

Are you always melancholy?
Prendergrast: Depressed, I think, is the word. [laughs]
Steve Garrigan (vocals): I don't think any of our songs are depressing — they're sad but they're uplifting.

Would you ever consider doing something more pop-y – a kind of guaranteed hit?
Prendergrast: Absolutely not. If we were promised a No. 1 hit in America with a song we didn't believe in, we'd say no.
Jay Boland (bass): It's an extension of yourself.

Steve, I understand that you had a messy breakup. Has she got in back in touch now that you're a little bit famous?
Garrigan: Yeah, she did.

So you're single now. Considered Tinder?
[All laugh]

Garrigan: I've got it. When you're traveling, it's unbelievable. You go to a city and you can see who's around.

It's good for a quick shag?
Garrigan: It's... ridiculous. You learn about yourself.

How depraved you are?
Garrigan: How shallow you are.

Show me your profile?
Garrigan: [Shows his Tinder profile] I don't know where this is going but f— it.

I like the creepy zombie pics — I bet you get some creepy messages. You should mention you sing in a band.
Prendergrast: [laughs] When it was coming up to Halloween there was a guy... who was pretty naked. ... He had a sheet over his little fella with a ghost face on it.

If you go

Kodaline

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Q&A

You've been played on shows like "Grey's Anatomy," "Mob Wives" and "Modern Family." How do you feel about being commercialized in this way?
Garrigan: I remember buying the CD of "Grey's Anatomy" a couple of years ago because I liked the music. It's kind of like what happened with Phantom Planet's track "California" and "The O.C." – it's a great way for fans to be introduced to new music.
Vinny May (drums): It's like Shazam. People don't realize but you subconsciously take in the song.

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‘Intimacy’ is porn onstage

Theater. Nothing says V-Day like simulating sex in front of strangers.

It’s not quite the same as watching a real porn shoot, but it’s closer than necessary. / MONIQUE CARBONI

There is no gratuitous sex in Thomas Bradshaw’s “Intimacy,” at the Acorn Theatre. The play’s about pornography — some might argue it is pornography — so the cornucopia of sex is organic.

That’s not to say it’s enjoyable, or even sexy. But sex, with a decidedly salacious slant and occasional touch of humor, is just about all there is to “Intimacy.”

There are also a bunch of racist slurs. They seem gratuitous, tacked on to give the play the social relevance it otherwise lacks. Their message is that all of us, even victims of racism, are bigots at heart. (“Avenue Q”’s “Everyone’s a Little Bit Racist” makes the same point with considerably more clarity and wit.)

The flimsy plot is not unlike sexploitation cinema. Matthew (Austin Cauldwell), inspired by the likes of Lars Von Trier, wants to be a filmmaker. He realizes that, unlike Von Trier, pornography is his true calling. He finds a creative partner in nubile young Janet (Ella Dershowitz), the porn star next door, whose parents (Laura Esterman and Daniel Gerrol) support her career choice and give her pointers on portraying more realistic orgasms.

The film is supposed to be all frottage (i.e., cast members achieve sexual gratification while remaining clothed) but devolves into the real McCoy, which is shared with the audience in close-ups of genitalia in action projected onto a large television.

“Intimacy” appears to be targeting two groups: those who prefer pornography that turns you off rather than on, and those who can’t afford Internet service but can afford a theater ticket.

In any event, it’s not for the faint of heart.

If you go

‘Intimacy’

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NYFW: Donna Karan

Fashion Week diary

Follow our editors' diaries as they take you to the front row of NYFW. For more coverage, visit www.metro.us and www.modmods.com.

SUNDAY

3:03 p.m.
I'm walking across 33rd Street headed to **3.1 Phillip Lim** when about 12 photographers rush over, rapid lens clicking away. Am I walking in front of Miley Cyrus or something? "Leandra, Leandra Leandra! Look this way," a photographer yells to Leandra Medine of the Man Repeller. She's having a good show season, eh?

3:17 p.m.
This collection is filled with pieces that have "fashion blogger" written all over them. I'm not sure how any designers would admit to it, but it looks fairly obvious to me that the street style stars have impacted the direction of fashion. Just like the music world has become more about the single than the album, fashion collections are now defined by a handful of standout pieces that have the power to go viral. The looks offering that obligatory "wow" factor here include a clever lilac fur jacket (what makes it so cool is that it's in the traditional denim jacket shape) styled with a caramel-colored flaired leather skirt and an equally covetable graphic, color-blocked coat in leather and fur. It's an upbeat, arty collection that doesn't take itself too seriously, right down to the quirky block-heeled shoes.
KENYA HUNT

MONDAY

2:42 p.m.
It's rare at Fashion Week to see a particular garment that fills you with longing that you can actually wear in the real world. That has just happened at **Milly** with a low-slung silver crackle leather skirt that somehow simultaneously looks like aluminum foil and projects a sort of urbane, easy, polished cool. I want it.

The haute couture veteran Michelle Smith often peddles a ladylike quirk, but here the tendency to tip over to "precious" territory remains in check. Inspired by ballerinas, the collection offers just the sort of poise you would imagine a dancer to exhibit as she floats through the world. Take the opening outfit: a pair of cinched camel-colored paper bag trousers with an ivory knitted fur sweater worn with a silver pendant necklace and artfully knotted scarf.

Not every look achieves that sort of effortless perfection: a blush tulle maxi skirt and fringed jumpsuit scream DANCER a bit too loudly. But subtly luxurious fur sweaters—in cream and pale pink—fluid skirts and the oversized yeti-like jacket — a pleasing alternative to the giant plush coat that's dominated the runways this week—are winners.
RAQUEL LANERI

8:15 p.m.
The mood is surprisingly dark and cold inside the dilapidated, bank building where **Donna Karan**'s 30th anniversary show is taking place. And there's something really poignant about seeing Aliza Licht, Donna Karan's longtime vice president of public relations, standing in the middle of the runway, clearing it of stragglers in preparation for the show to start while PR girls speak in headphones in various corners of the room. It reminds you that behind Donna Karan is a team of women who have been powering her operation for decades.

8:20 p.m.
Three models, dressed in tailored jackets, body suits, dramatic warrior-esque hats and the sharpest stilettos I've ever seen open the show, walk against a backdrop video of lithe, muscular dancers. And with that, Donna has established a clear message: fierce clothes for strong, grown women. And that's really what she's been known for all along, ever since she single-handedly changed the direction of women's work wear in the Eighties. Her trademarks are all here — the fluid chiffon skirts and dresses, plus the tailored pieces of the power suit, among others — but this doesn't feel like a rehashing of greatest hits. If anything, it feels like a clarification of her house codes, which resonates especially strongly right now after a year in which feminism and gender equality debates from Sheryl Sandberg to Beyonce have stayed in the headlines. These are easy-to-wear, elegant clothes that women can actually function in. Not that the body suits, coats and dresses on show here are making

The designers

Donna Karan

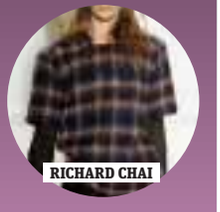
- **The scene:** Hugh Jackman, Katie Holmes and Rita Ora are here, but the people in my section are more excited about seeing Karen Elson and Karolina Kurkova back on the runway.
- **The major trends:** Big, shaggy outerwear and heavy, chunky knits
- **What this will mean for your wardrobe:** The search for pieces to get you through the next polar vortex shouldn't be too challenging.

Donna Karan / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

PLUS

Fashion trends

Plaid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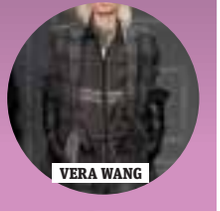
VERA WANG

TRACY REESE

Fashion trends

Red

DONNA KARAN

PRABAL GURUNG

JENNY PACKHAM

is celebrating the big 3-0

3.1 Phillip Lim

Milly

Tory Burch

a grand statement about the state of women's rights. They're not even particularly agenda-setting in the area of trends. But the fact that Donna Karan's business is here and thriving in this industry, where the most influential and critically adored designers have historically been men, is what makes this collection give goosebumps. **KH**

TUESDAY

9:25 a.m.
The venue for Tory Burch's show is awfully bright for such an early start time (late night, late deadlines). Anna Wintour, seated front row, really has a reason to leave her shades on.

9:30 a.m.
Burch usually sticks to the Lincoln Center vicinity to show her collections, but finds more artsy spots within the grounds rather than the venues designated for Fashion Week. Today, we're sitting in the balcony area of Avery Fisher Hall. The crisp morning light shining through the floor-to-ceiling windows highlights the grandeur of the venue. It's the perfect backdrop for the designer's fall outing, inspired by the armor her parents collected. Yes, armor. It's seen in the shiny pleated lamé separates and the big copper belt buckles with chains hanging down that cinch a variety of looks including a dragon print wrap skirt and a multi-textured shearling, tweed and fur coat. But the medieval references don't just stop there, see the edgy black sweater with chain mail-like embroidery, opulent jeweled detailing on blouses, tapestry prints on the silk dresses and baroque cropped trousers. The thigh-high wool socks and some tough sportier pieces in leather and neoprene, however, bring the more polished looks down a notch from Camelot to, say, the Upper East Side, where the designer resides. **TINA CHADHA**

9:45 a.m.
I was beginning to wonder when **J.Crew** would close the sequin chapter. After a solid two years of covering everything — including blouses, coats and jeans — in crystals, the design team has moved on to an idea that's equally fun and decadent: fur, which this season comes on knit jumpers, coats and scarves. But some of the strongest moments, such as a minimalist charcoal grey dress with a flared skirt or a navy blue jacket with cropped trousers in Yves Klein blue, don't have any embellishments at all. Who would have thought? In that regard, this is arguably the brand's most balanced collection yet, with just enough trimmings for the magpies of the world, without alienating anyone who doesn't like their knitwear tricked out in tinsel. **KH**

10:30 a.m.
Tina and I are hailing a cab when we see Tommy Ton sprinting across the street in front of Lincoln Center. No less than 10 seconds later, a fleet of photographers, running just as fast, follow him. But Tommy doesn't appear to be photographing anyone. Is he punking these guys? **KH**

The designers

3.1 Phillip Lim

- **The major trends:** Leather, boxy shapes and fur

Milly

- **The major trends:** Oversized coats, fur, circle skirts, relaxed shape
- **The soundtrack:** A remix of "Ice, Ice Baby"? Weird.
- **What this means for your wardrobe:** It's all about ease, but you may want to practice walking with a book on your head to help achieve that ballerina grace.

Tory Burch

- **The major trends:** Embellishments galore, edgy-meets-polished, pleated skirts, prints
- **What this will mean for your wardrobe:** Add some toughness to your dressy skirts with thigh-high socks.

J. Crew

- **The major trends:** Plays on texture and embellishments, shaggy, teddy bear-like furs
- **What this will mean for your wardrobe:** J.Crew will continue to be the irresistible retail temptation it's been for the past five years.

J. CREW

See more at www.metro.us

Rosie Assoulin.
Someone introduce this woman to Lupita

In just two short seasons, Rosie Assoulin has become one of the buzziest new names on New York's show calendar, thanks to a little help from high-profile fans such as the Moda Operandi team and Leandra Medine. Connections aside, her talent really does stand up to the increasing level of hype. If only the red carpet looked as original as the easy, whimsical dresses in her fall '14 collection. They look like the sort of thing I'd imagine Madame Gres creating if she were a Millennial: sculptural shapes and fluid drapery that makes a girl want to dress up a lot more often. One sculptural ivory number covered in multi-colored stripes begs to be worn by Lupita Nyong'o, who loves color, while a black-and-ivory gown with a mint sash looks exactly like the sort of thing accident-prone Jennifer Lawrence needs in her awards show life.

The press notes for Rosie's collection describe her work as toeing the line "between the romantically fantastical and reliably practical," which is pretty accurate. Her gowns look just as comfortable as her slouchy, voluminous day wear. Speaking of: Wide legs are starting to pop up a lot this week, and nearly all of them look like tired Seventies imitations. Rosie's, which come in floor-dusting lengths and styled with sneakers, appear a bit easier to wear. But they're the presentation's weakest link; a high-waisted, mega-wide leg pant will be a tough sell to anyone who isn't hanger-sized. **KH**

The designer

Rosie Assoulin

- **The major trends:** Slouchy, voluminous shapes, wide-leg pants and drapery
- **What this will mean for your wardrobe:** Reassurance that the trend for comfort and wearability isn't going away anytime soon

ROSIE ASSOULIN

PLUS

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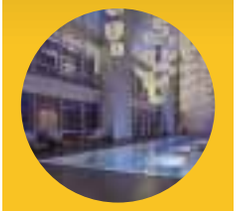

Cheapest

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The least expensive listing this week is a studio at 508 E. 78th St. Marketed by Coldwell Banker Bellmarc, this co-op features floor-to-ceiling windows, a balcony, stainless steel appliances and storage. The building also has a courtyard and laundry.

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Outer boroughs could feel the squeeze from new mortgage rules

Can you really afford your house? New rules may make sure you're able to. / ISTOCKPHOTO

Real Estate. Tighter lending likely to impact market outside Manhattan where single-family homes, lower down payments common.

Strict new rules designed to make sure that homeowners avoid mortgages they can't afford kicked in on Jan. 10. The rules also ensure that lenders won't face lawsuits from borrowers should their repayment go awry. But despite those good intentions, the regulations are sparking concerns that squeezing the availability of credit will unsettle the housing market, especially in New York City's outer boroughs.

Quick stats

NYC condominium buildings approved for FHA loans

- **Brooklyn:** 278 of 3,214
- **Manhattan:** 98 of 2,332
- **Queens:** 90 of 871
- **Staten Island:** 31 of 191
- **Bronx:** 28 of 165
- **Citywide:** 525 of 6,773

Source: Federal Housing Administration

The rules build on moves made by the Federal Reserve at the height of the foreclosure crisis to crack down on the willy-nilly lending that helped fuel the economic collapse. Codified in the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial reform, they require lenders that want the Federal Housing Administration to guarantee their loans to verify that borrowers can repay a loan according to its specified terms. To do that, the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau created a new category, dubbed "qualified mortgages," or QM, that follows a long-recognized rule of thumb for separating prime loans from subprime.

The new rules bar loans with negative amortization, interest-only payments, balloon payments or terms exceeding 30 years. "No-doc" loans also no longer fly, and among other restrictions, the borrower must have a debt-to-income ratio of less than or equal to 43 percent.

Still, some say the new debt-to-income ratio, which restricts a borrower's debt payments to 43 percent of his or her income in an attempt to prevent difficulty keeping up, may be just enough to unsettle the New York City housing market. Before the crisis, those ratios sometimes got as high as 60 percent, and have since tended to max out around 50 percent, according to Rolan Shnayder, director

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Current Rent Range studio: **$1052 - $1153**

Income Range: **$44,025 - $48,100** (1 person household)

Current Range 1 bedroom: **$1065 - $1238**

Income Range: **$44,598 - $48,100** (1 person household)
$44,598- $55,000 (2 person household)

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Income Range: **$35,600 - $48,100** (1 person household)

Current Range 1 bedroom: **$1071 - $1238**

Income Range: **$44,832 - $48,100** (1 person household)
$44,832 - $55,000 (2 person household)

Monthly rent includes heat, hot water and gas for cooking. Seniors will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria to qualify. Income guidelines are subject to change. One application per household.

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of new development lending at the Manhattan-based H.O.M.E. Mortgage Bankers.

The impact will be felt differently throughout the city: The cash buyer reigns supreme in Manhattan, where the median condominium sale price hit $1.32 million in 2013's fourth quarter, according to Douglas Elliman's latest market report. Because prices are so high, the standards a buyer must meet to qualify for a purchase at all, let alone to secure outside financing, are already on par with the new QM rules, experts say. For that reason, the borough is less exposed than areas where home financing plays a bigger role.

Many multi-family buildings have their own standards for the types of financing they will accept. Co-ops will not accept FHA loans, and only about 8 percent of New York City condo buildings are FHA-approved, agency data shows. Furthering the pinch, the FHA lowered its maximum single-family loan amount for the region on Jan. 1 to $625,000 from $729,750 previously — which, of course, goes farther in some locations than others. Queens has by far the most stock in the city that could be covered by FHA, with 154,393 single-family homes. The total amount of FHA lending corresponds with the type of housing found throughout the city. In 2013, Queens had the largest chunk of FHA loans, totaling $1.2 trillion. Manhattan had the smallest, with around $31 billion.

Queens was the hardest hit borough in the foreclosure crisis. In 2013, the region had $1.2 trillion in FHA loans. / THE REAL DEAL

"I think as you move to the outer boroughs, the probability of impact would be heightened," said Jonathan Miller, president and CEO of appraisal firm Miller Samuel. "I don't mean significantly, but the drag on volume could be more than if there was no QM."

But though the tighter rules could weigh down activity, they could help avoid another painful wave of foreclosures. In the subprime mortgage fallout in 2008, foreclosures leaped fourfold citywide, to 2,536, from 635 the year earlier.

Yet Manhattan came out with barely a scratch, with the number of completed foreclosures just 35 in 2008.

The crisis was most severely felt in Queens, where the number of foreclosures exploded to 1,575 in 2008, nearly six times the prior year's 273.

Still, brokers remain characteristically optimistic for this year — with or without QM.

"If there are red flags or grave concern, I haven't seen it," said Steven Goldschmidt, senior vice president of Warbug Realty. "If there are new lending rules that make for a stronger environment that stops the kinds of issues that plagued us four or five years ago, so much the better." **JULIE STRICKLAND**

Quick stats

NYC single-family homes

- **Queens:** 154,393
- **Staten Island:** 76,771
- **Brooklyn:** 60,857
- **Bronx:** 21,996
- **Manhattan:** 2,003

Source: PropertyShark

FHA-insured loans in 2013

- **Queens:** $1.2 trillion
- **Brooklyn:** $1.06 trillion
- **Bronx:** $511 billion
- **Staten Island:** $459 billion
- **Manhattan:** $31 billion

Source: Federal Housing Administration

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Editor's pick

Kontex Flat line organics towel

We're obsessed with these luxury, lightweight 100 percent organic towels. On one side they have a super soft cotton weave; flip it over, and you've got your traditional terrycloth. This beautifully designed towel is fast-drying without the bulk and reminds us of being on a warm-weathered vacation. Plus, we love how the pink chevron pattern pops against the calming beige.

$13-$67, WWW.RIKUMO.COM

Heart your place

We're suckers for all the pink and red popping up in shop windows and on the home pages of our favorite online stores, not to mention in the bakeries and chocolatiers around the city. We decided to bring the love home with these V-Day inspired products. **TINA CHADHA**

1

Ikea Jonosfar pendant lamp

$14.99, www.ikea.com

2

CB2 TPS pink file cabinet

$159, www.cb2.com

3

SMEG refrigerator

$1,999, www.westelm.com

4

C. Wonder porcelain color-block mug

$12, www.cwonder.com

5

Wind and Willow Home salad bowls

$169 for a set of 5, www.windandwillowhome.com

6

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Fireplace 3-D has a fireplace. That's it. The Winter Survival Kit app may be a little more helpful. / PROVIDED

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Fireplace 3-D

99 cents
iPhone
Never underestimate the power of some well-chosen delusion. If you live in a city, you likely don't have easy access to a fireplace. (Indeed, you may even live with a rickety steam heater, probably left over from the 19th century, that alternates between loud hissing and terrifying banging sounds.) But if you want to bask in the glow of some flaming embers, even digital ones that don't emit warmth, try the Fireplace 3-D app. For a buck you can bring up a live, crackling wood fire, minus the heat but also minus the smoke. It's like the competing Yule log TV transmissions around the holidays, only minus the cheesy/inexplicable song choices and tiny enough to fit in your hand.

Winter Survival Kit

Free
iPhone
In "The Day After Tomorrow," filmmaker and oracle Roland Emmerich depicted a possible (but not that possible) future where climate change had turned the Earth's weather bananas. New York City was among the hardest hit: It became a frozen ice palace, buried in snow and conquered by hungry, rampaging wolves. (Emmerich would go on to make the apocalyptic "2012" — remember that craze?)

This winter hasn't been as bad as that, but it's been closer than most of us would like. With still more snowfall on the way it's worth at least jokingly entertaining the notion that living in an urban wasteland won't save us from the bitter, wretched ravages of Mother Nature. If you want to get all alarmist and Grizzly Adams about the cold and the snow, the Winter Survival Kit is your app.

If the weather gets so bad that you're stranded, have the Winter Survival Kit handy. PROVIDED

A generously detailed (and generously free) service, it's there for you if you suddenly find yourself outside city limits and stuck in the snow (probably in a dreaded car). Hit the handy big red "I'm Stranded" button, and the app will walk you through the steps you take to increase your chances of not dying a horrible death.

It will help you measure your gas, while reminding you that running your engine can result in carbon monoxide buildup. It will also send out periodic alerts to your emergency contact, should you find cellphone service lacking.

In fact, it's worth going through Winter Survival Kit before you go outside in dangerous weather. Having read all of its worst case scenarios could save your life — although traveling at all during the polar vortex might be worth rethinking your plans in the first place.

App Appeal

MATT PRIGGE
MATT.PRIGGE@METRO.US

Teller tells all

What's on your phone?

Name: Teller
Occupation: Magician, filmmaker, skeptic
Out now: "Tim's Vermeer," a documentary about the inventor Tim Jenison trying recreate a Johannes Vermeer painting, which Teller directed with Penn Jillette as producer
App of choice: "I use Sleep Machine. [It] produces various kinds of white noise. You can create whatever exact sound you want, and use it bedside in hotels to mask the hotel noise. To amplify it, I always put [my phone] in the ice bucket or the trash can. That's a great amplifier."
MATT PRIGGE

TELLER DIRECTED THE ACCLAIMED DOCUMENTARY "TIM'S VERMEER." GETTY IMAGES

Seeing clearly. Google Glass now comes with prescription lenses

We are closer to living in a cyberpunk dystopia than ever before, thanks to the promise of wearable technology. The jewel in this "always-on" crown has to be Google Glass. Google's virtual reality headset lets you see the world how it was meant to be seen: as a tiny hologram floating just in front of your eyeballs.

The company has finally announced that Glass can come shipped with prescription frames, solving a usability issue for glasses-wearers. Google's new Titanium Collection boasts four frames that pair nicely with the migraine-inducing gizmo. There are even sunglasses, if you like to make it easier for would-be thieves to sneak up on you.

Hey, only $1,750 for glasses! GETTY IMAGES

Of course, all of this real sight mixed with virtual sight comes with a price. Grabbing a Glass device paired with some of Google's prescription frames will set you back a pretty penny (or 175,000). These units are expected to retail for about $1,750. Yowza! **LAWRENCE BONK**

By the numbers

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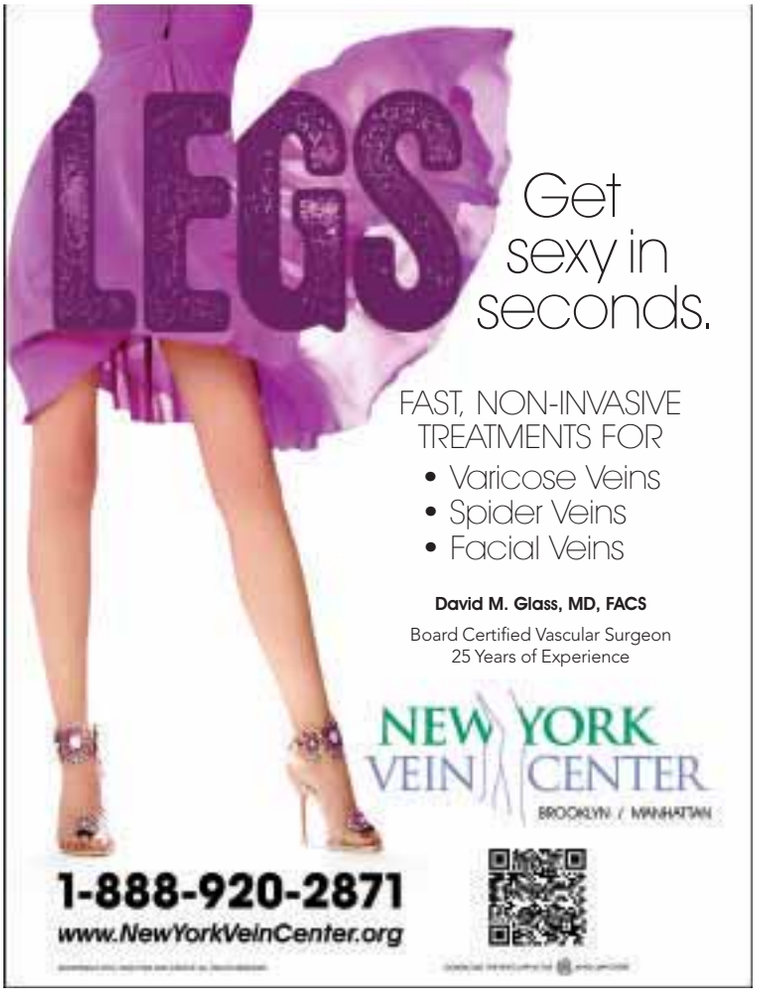

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GETTING BACK UP WHEN YOU FALL DOWN

Many people of all fitness levels love Zumba, but it just wasn't for our editor. / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

So I mentioned that I'm the clumsiest woman in America, right? My first Zumba class proved it. My two left feet and I made it through just 15 minutes of the 45-minute class.

I just couldn't get it — everyone else made it look so easy, and there I was in the back corner, tripping over myself. What is a kick ball change, anyhow? I walked out. And I was mad. Not at anyone else; just at myself.

When I decided to start this project, I vowed not to quit. I can't count the number of times I've started diets, paid for gym memberships but never went and made excuses to justify staying on the couch. This time, I promised myself it would be different. Yet here I was, quitting the first time it got hard.

I may have left the class, but I stayed at the gym. Frustrated, I got on a treadmill and made myself keep going. It wasn't a wasted night: I ran/jogged a mile in 17 minutes, 6 minutes faster than last week.

Maybe I'll try Zumba again when I gain some confidence, but maybe I won't. We don't all have to love the same workout. Meanwhile, I've been back to spin class. The second time was easier, and I felt such a sense of accomplishment afterward.

Wedding cardio

'Fit to Say I Do'

NYHRC is still looking for participants for its "Fit to Say I Do" program, a 10-week series of classes that combines cardio interval training with Barre Method techniques.

The classes will start March 1, with a second session in April and May.

For more information, contact the club's group fitness director at gfdirector@nyhrc.com.

VOWING TO GET HEALTHY
AMANDA ART
amanda.art@metro.us

Skip the doughnuts

You are what you eat

I've been logging my food and exercise with the MyFitnessPal website and app and paying much closer attention to what I eat. Breakfast used to consist of Dunkin' Donuts Munchkins and a large iced coffee — regardless of the fact that each doughnut hole packs 70 calories and 4 grams of fat. That adds up fast! I didn't eat an actual lunch very often, snacking throughout the day instead.

I haven't eliminated Dunkin' altogether, but its egg white and turkey sausage wrap has only 150 calories — along with 10 grams of protein, something the doughnut holes definitely didn't include. Switching from whole milk to skim also saves calories and fat.

At lunchtime, I'm making a concerted effort to eat, choosing salads with minimal dressing. Trader Joe's has some really tasty ones that I can just grab and go. For snacks, I switched from chips, cookies and candy to carrots (with or without hummus), fresh fruit and nuts.

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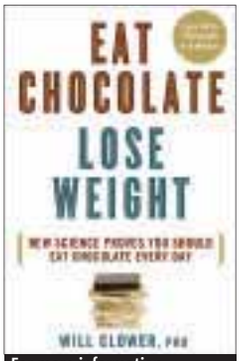
Chocolate lovers, rejoice!

Yum. A new book details the science behind adding a little sweetness at dinner time.



For more information, visit www.willclower.com.

"Eat Chocolate, Lose Weight" claims you can reduce food cravings and learn better eating habits by incorporating — you guessed it — chocolate.

"Chocolate does a lot of good things for you," promises the author, Will Clower. His method uses chocolate as a teaching tool to help stop overconsumption.

"The point is, when you eat your chocolate, to take your time, to let it sit on your tongue, to — and this sounds crazy — actually taste your food," Clower explains. "It turns out that when you do that, you get sensory-specific satiety."

That satiety is what can curb overeating. The chocolate can also reduce cravings for foods high in sugar, using a process Clower calls "pulling your sweet tooth." It starts with adapting your taste buds to darker chocolates, which have less sugar and more healthy antioxidants — in other words, the more cocoa in your chocolate, the better.

"Americans eat 140 pounds of sugar per person per year. That issue is a massive driver of health problems," Clower says. "When you pull your sweet tooth and adapt your taste in a direction of darker chocolate, what you find is you just don't have a craving anymore for 140 pounds of sugar," Clower says. "The things that [you] used to like become too sweet."

The benefits of chocolate aren't limited to weight loss. High-cocoa chocolate might aid many other areas of a healthy lifestyle.

For example, the antioxidants found in chocolate can "help to grow the vasculature within muscles," Clower says. "The little capillaries, little blood vessels, can grow into your muscles" — which can increase the amount of energy you have throughout the day.

"If you have more energy through the day, you're more likely to move, you're more likely to be active. You're less likely to blow off your exercise routine."

Take a bite — and make sure to savor it. / PIXLAND

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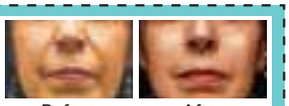
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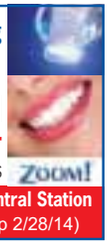

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Mark Melrose, DO, is a board-certified emergency physician at Urgent Care Manhattan. Email him your questions at askdrmark@metro.us.

DON'T SPREAD MORE THAN LOVE THIS V-DAY

Unfortunately, much more than love is in the air on Valentine's Day. If your date is sick, better to stay away and celebrate on another day than risk any of these illnesses:

We hope your partner only gives you fever in a figurative sense.
DIGITAL VISION

Colds and flu

It's prime time for transmission of cold and flu viruses, which are peaking in prevalence around the country. Viruses are spread by contact and respiratory particles. Symptoms typically include some combination of nasal congestion, sore throat, cough and possibly fever or body aches. Influenza is a particularly miserable virus, accompanied by high fever, dry painful coughing and body aches. If you haven't gotten a flu shot yet, it's not too late. If taken at the first sign of illness, Tamiflu can make flu symptoms less severe and shorten its duration.

Kissing disease

Mononucleosis

Sometimes referred to as the kissing disease, mono is easily transmitted by smooching. It's caused by yet another virus, Epstein-Barr, which causes fever, swollen glands, malaise and fatigue, sometimes lasting for two to three weeks. Mono is usually self-limited, requiring only supportive care, and can be diagnosed by a simple blood test.

Strep throat

Streptococcus is a bacterial infection that typically causes a painful throat, swollen lymph nodes and fever, and can be transmitted by kissing. It's not generally accompanied by congestion or cough. A strep test will indicate whether antibiotics are required.

Stomach virus

There are any number of gastrointestinal viruses that may be transmitted from person to person and may result in a fever, chills, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Although not actually an influenza virus, this illness is often called a stomach flu or 24-hour bug.

Herpes simplex

HSV-2 has been the predominant source of genital herpes, while HSV-1 causes oral cold sores and canker sores. But with changing intimacy practices, both viruses commonly cause genital herpes. Sex and oral sex can spread both, as can kissing or even sharing a drink with someone who has active cold sores.

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Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Refrain from sharing your secrets. Organize personal paperwork or deal with projects to put an accomplished feel on the day.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Devote time to your favorite hobby. Someone who comes from a very different background will inspire you.

Aries | March 21-April 20. Don't damage your reputation by revealing secret information. In order to avoid a problem with your friends or relatives, be very careful what you say.

Taurus | April 21-May 21. A change of scenery will go a long way toward reducing your stress. Avoid people and situations that are getting you down.

Gemini | May 22-June 20. Reflect on your past and think about what you want and need out of life to begin the process of making your dreams come true.

Cancer | June 21-July 22. Keep your anger at bay. You risk overreacting if you take constructive criticism too seriously. Find an enjoyable activity that will help you stay calm.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Speak up if you feel someone is withholding information. Getting all the facts could have a positive effect on your future.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Do something physical to relieve your boredom. Rather than dwell on your problems, check out your community for activities.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. You may feel disappointed with the way your life is going. Don't let your fears prevent you from reaching your goals. Take positive steps.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Today will be a success if you devote your energy and enthusiasm to a cause you believe in. You will make new friends.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. You must sort through personal documents carefully. If you offer assistance to someone who needs it, you'll receive similar treatment.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Those who love you deserve your attention. If something is bothering you, now is the time to clear it up. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

1	7		6			2		
2	9		5			3		
				2			9	
4		1		5				2
	6						1	
3				6		7		4
	4			9				
		2			5		4	8
		5			2		6	7

8		5	9				1	
7						9		3
		6	3		5			
5			2	3	8		9	
				7				
	6		5	9	1			7
			8		3	2		
3		2						1
	5				4	8		9

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

A friend in need might need friends

In the '80s movie "Mass Appeal," the priest (Jack Lemmon) declared "I've baptized you, married you, but never cared enough about you to risk losing you." I thought of that as I watched the "friends;" celebs, agents and those on the "in" attending Philip Seymour Hoffman's funeral. Where were they?

Where were they when he was beyond the usual disheveled, when he was at an airport intoxicated, when he was seen at an Atlanta bar, given his history of addictive behavior? Never upset the Big Guy, fearing you might lose his favor. Mr. Hoffman, in the throes of addiction, needed to count on good friends. Sadly the adage, "show me who your friends are, I will show you who you are," or at least where you will end up, came into play.

There was an episode of "M.A.S.H." where Hawkeye turned in 16-year-old Ron Howard, who was trying to pass for 18. Hawkeye was destined to save this young man's life. Howard responded "I will hate you forever" to which Hawkeye replied, "Let it be a long and happy hate."

It's a shame Mr. Hoffman's "friends" didn't feel the same way.
DAVID DIBELLO, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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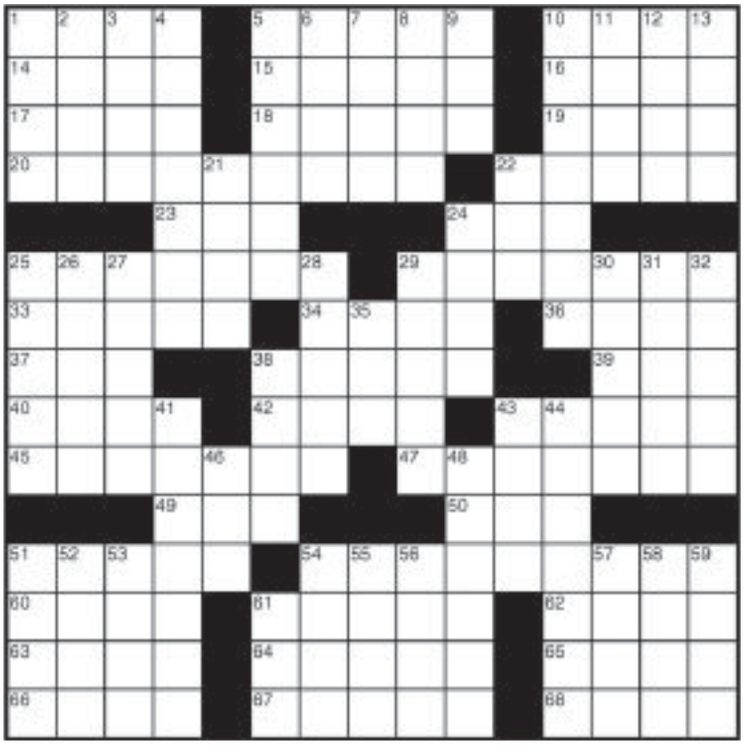
Interactive Crossword

Crossword

Across
1 Lost traction
5 Field units
10 Wine served warm
14 Focal points
15 Go-getters
16 Found a roost
17 Piccadilly statue
18 Moon track
19 Spreadsheet worker
20 Row of trees
22 Range
23 Malt beverage
24 Right, to a mule
25 Frilliest
29 Ring expert
33 Kudu cousin
34 Baba au —
36 Ruler of Venice, once
37 IRS time
38 Fixes potatoes
39 Hematite
40 Former New York stadium
42 Saucy
43 Established
45 Sharp tool
47 Frozen desserts
49 Sine — non
50 Husk
51 Obeyed the clock (2 wds.)
54 Campfire favorite
60 Grades 1-12
61 Deli crepes
62 Noted Roman censor
63 Poet's contraction
64 Eggs' partner
65 Authentic
66 Weighty book
67 Cheech's partner
68 Fax, maybe

Down
1 Did in the dragon
2 Petty of "Tank Girl"
3 Click-on item
4 Spurn
5 Delights in
6 Apple leftover
7 "Fancy" singer
8 Viking name
9 Mach 3 flier of yore
10 Browned in butter
11 As well as
12 Ukraine city
13 Raison d' –
21 Ran in the wash
22 Hem up
24 Cat burglar's quest
25 Pet shop buy
26 Omega opposite
27 Insert mark
28 Cutthroat or rainbow
29 Verne of sci-fi
30 Roomy
31 Leggy bird
32 Cattails
35 Kept secret
38 La — tar pits
41 Come by
43 It may be knitted
44 Kidnaps
46 March starter
48 Choosing
51 Polite chap
52 Low-fat spread
53 Giant-ant horror film
54 Dull and boring
55 Puerto —
56 Erelong
57 Hard to find
58 Daze
59 Two- — sloth
61 Telly network

Yesterday's answer



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3 SPORTS

More dysfunction

Browns ax front office

The Browns continued their offseason of dysfunction Tuesday by letting go CEO Joe Banner and general manager Michael Lombardi. Lombardi was only on the job for one season, same as head coach Rob Chudzinski, fired in January.

Tanaka, meet New York

The Yankees tried to temper expectations of Tanaka being a No. 1 pitcher in the United States, at least right off the bat. / GETTY IMAGES

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MLB. The Yankees introduced their new big money signing Tuesday with all the pomp and circumstance.

Masahiro Tanaka went 24-0 and led his team to a championship last season in Japan. He likely won't have it as easy in the United States, but he's not changing his expectations.

"I wanted to come here and win a championship," Tanaka said through an interpreter. "The Yankees are a team that's always in that type of situation. I understand there's a lot of pressure here."

The Yankees certainly believe he can pitch like the 2013 Pacific League MVP he was — if money is any indication.

"When I take the mound, I feel that I would like to win every single game," Tanaka said. "Being an ace is something that not myself but the other people label. So basically what I want to do is go out there and compete and do my best."

But before anyone gets ahead of themselves, especially the rabid Yankee fan base, the prevailing theme from Tuesday's press conference was one of patience.

"This is a high-end asset that's available and it's obviously got some risk because he's transitioning from Japan," general manager Brian Cashman said. "So we've spoken about those difficult adjustments that are necessary. He has a great deal of ability and we can be getting more than a [No. 3 pitcher]. Maybe it's a [No. 2]. Maybe it's a [No. 1] at some point, but I think because of the adjustments that are necessary [we need to be patient]."

The televised portion of the press conference had Cashman saying "this is Steinbrenner big," while adding the formal introduction of Tanaka would be something that would make former owner George Steinbrenner proud. The press conference was the largest since the team introduced Hideki Matsui in Times Square in 2002.

"I know that because the contract is what it is, the expectations are going to be something, especially on the front end, that I want to alter to some degree — or try to," Cashman said. "It's better to have an honest, realistic dialogue with your fans that you run through the media. Whether anybody wants to disagree, that's fine. Or agree, that's fine too. I want to make sure that people know how difficult this game is over here."

LARRY FLEISHER
sports@metro.us

By the numbers

200
The Yankees said there were about 200 credentials issued for Tanaka's press conference — the most since Hideki Matsui was introduced in 2002.

19
Tanaka, who wore No. 18 in Japan, will wear No. 19 with the Yankees. His fellow countryman, Hiroki Kuroda, wears No. 18.

$175M
The Yankees paid $175 million, including a $20 million posting fee, for the services of Tanaka over seven years.

300M
Tanaka made 300 million yen last season with Rakuten — about $2.9 million U.S. dollars.

Internationally known

Tanaka brings comparisons to Hernandez

El Duque was 61-40 for the Yankees over six seasons.
GETTY IMAGES

General manager Brian Cashman said besides the glowing scouting reports coming to his desk, what attracted him to Masahiro Tanaka was his presence.

It reminded him of Orlando Hernandez, who was at least a decade older and promptly went 12-4 and won three straight championships after defecting from Cuba.

"There's a lot of players internationally in Cuba and Japan that come through," Cashman said. "Those reports, they're really impressive, but those players don't really become available in their prime years. So a lot of players that you go, 'Wow, if this player ever becomes available, we got to jump all over this guy.' Sometimes they never become available. Sometimes when they become available it's on the back end of their careers later on — much later. But in his case, he's 25 and he's in his prime and he became available in a unique circumstance in the posting system."

Hernandez did not have a fellow Cuban in the Yankee rotation but succeeded nonetheless. Tanaka does have a countryman in Hiroki Kuroda.

The Yankees believe that will help and give them a chance to get their money's worth on the most expensive international contract in baseball history.

"One thing that I feel like I've seen from Japanese players is they feel a little bit more weight representing their country," manager Joe Girardi said. "They kind of pave the way for the next guy and the next guy and I think that trying to temper down those expectations of what you have to do is important and for me the biggest thing is just be yourself."

For Tanaka, being yourself means pitching well regardless of the rotation spot the Yankees place him in.

LARRY FLEISHER

NFL. Former Jets GM says Sam admission should have no effect

Michael Sam's announcement that he will become the first openly gay player in the NFL created all sorts of headlines. It could also have an impact on his draft status.

"If I was drafting, the fact that he made this announcement wouldn't affect my evaluation. It remains to be seen what happens on draft day, as it is there is some disagreement about him as a player," former Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum told Metro New York. "I hope that his draft status isn't affected. What he did by making the announcement is show tremendous strength and courage. Those are attributes that are sought after by every team."

But the announcement and his decision to make his sexuality public might be something some teams will wish to avoid.

One NFL scout for an elite NFC team told Metro on Monday they had an initial grade on Sam somewhere in the fourth or fifth round. Now, the scout wasn't so sure how things would play out.

"Whether he intended to or not, he now has a lot of baggage," the scout said. "It has everything to do with him being a distraction and nothing to do with his lifestyle. I don't think most teams care about that. What they will care about is the other 52 players in the locker room constantly being asked about it. It will become a distraction.

"Again, it has nothing to do with him being gay. I think teams are fine with that and merely want him to be healthy like they would any other player. That isn't a concern. The concern is the media attention and scrutiny. All that press scared teams off from Tim Tebow. In a very different context, that will happen now with Sam."

KRISTIAN DYER

No issues

NFLDraftScout.com has Sam ranked as the No. 11 defensive end in the draft.

- "He should be received in the locker room without any issues," Tannenbaum said. "If you look at Missouri, they all knew about his sexuality and they went on to have a tremendous year."

Michael Sam had 11 1/2 sacks for Missouri last season and was Co-Defensive Player of the Year in the SEC. / GETTY IMAGES

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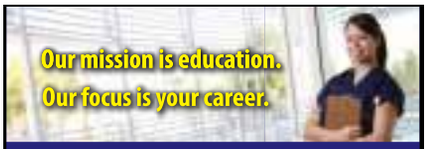

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32 Homeowners needed by March 12th!

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Start with as little as $1,500
1-2 Family Homes in Brooklyn, Bronx, and Queens
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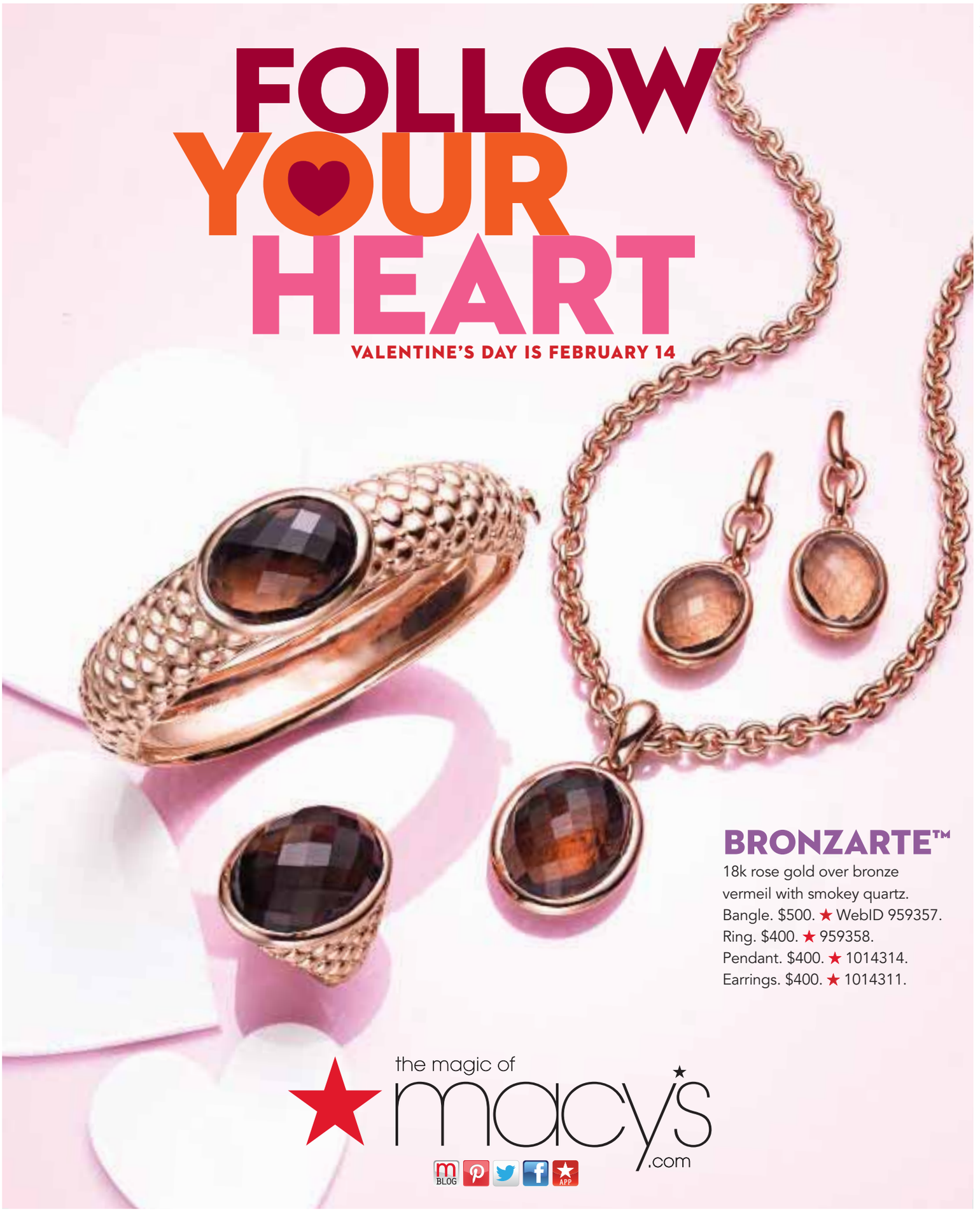
By Train: Take the "F" Train to Sutphin Blvd
By Car: Take Van Wyck to Hillside Ave
718-291-1800
START NOW!!

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

FOLLOW YOUR HEART

VALENTINE'S DAY IS FEBRUARY 14



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